

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (original) A cutter comprising:

a base portion for supporting a workpiece;

a holder supported on the base portion in an upright posture;

a cutter blade portion adapted for supporting a moving blade, the cutter blade portion being provided on an upper portion of the holder and adapted for free vertical movement toward and away from the base portion between an uppermost position to a lowermost position, the moving blade cutting through the workpiece when the cutter blade portion is moved from the uppermost position to the lowermost position;

a laser generator provided on the holder and for emitting laser light through a laser emitting portion to irradiate, with the laser light, a position to be cut on the workpiece;

a cleaning mechanism for contacting the light emitting portion of the laser generator in interlocking relation with the vertical movement of the cutter blade portion from the uppermost position to the lowermost position, the cleaning mechanism cleaning off the light emitting portion by said contact.

24. (original) The cutter as claimed in claim 23, wherein the cleaning mechanism includes a brush protruding toward the laser generator.

25-34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) A cutter comprising:

a base portion for supporting a workpiece;

a holder supported on the base portion;

a cutter blade portion adapted for supporting a circular saw blade that cuts the workpiece, the cutter blade portion being supported on the holder so as to be pivotally movable between an upper position and a lower position, the cutter blade portion being closer to the base portion in the lower position than in the upper position, the circular saw blade having a rotation axis and a blade edge in a circumferential direction of the circular saw blade, the blade edge having a width in a direction of the rotation axis, said width bounded by two parallel planes; and

a laser generator for emitting laser light, the laser generator being attached to one of the holder and the cutter blade portion to direct at least a portion of the laser light onto a position to be cut on the workpiece while satisfying the following conditions:

(1) the laser light travels within a space defined between said two planes; and

(2) the at least a portion of the laser light travels between the blade edge and the base portion when the cutter blade portion is in the upper position,

wherein said laser light travels in a direction that crosses with a longitudinal direction of the rotation axis of the circular saw blade.

36-61. (canceled)

62. (Currently Amended) A The cutter as claimed in claim 61, comprising:

a base portion for supporting a workpiece;

a holder supported on the base portion;

a cutter blade portion adapted for supporting a circular saw blade that cuts the workpiece, the cutter blade portion being supported on the holder so as to be pivotally movable between an upper position and a lower position, the cutter blade portion being closer to the base portion in the lower position than in the upper position, the circular saw blade having a rotation axis and a blade edge in a circumferential direction of the circular saw blade, the blade edge having a width in a direction of the rotation axis, said width bounded by two parallel planes; and

a laser generator for emitting laser light, the laser generator being attached to the holder to direct at least a portion of the laser light onto a position to be cut on the workpiece while satisfying the following conditions:

(1) the laser light travels within a space defined between said two planes; and

(2) the at least a portion of the laser light travels between the blade edge and the base portion when the cutter blade portion is in the upper position

wherein said laser light travels in a direction that crosses with a longitudinal direction of the rotation axis of the blade.

63. (currently amended) The cutter as claimed in claim 61 ~~61~~ 62, wherein the laser generator comprises:

a light emitting portion that irradiates the laser light onto the position to be cut on the workpiece;

a laser generator support member supporting therein the laser generator slidable in a horizontal direction; and

means for moving the light emitting portion of the laser generator in the horizontal direction.

64. (previously presented) The cutter as claimed in claim 63, wherein the laser generator has a first side and a second side opposite the first side, and the moving means comprises:

a screw member screwingly fitted in the laser generator support member with a tip of the screw member abutting against the first side of the laser generator, and

a resilient member interposed between the laser generator support member and the second side of the laser generator for urging the laser generator toward the screw member.

65. (previously presented) The cutter as claimed in claim 63, further comprising a resilient body for urging the laser generator in a vertical direction.

66. (previously presented) The cutter as claimed in claim 63, further comprising a resilient body for urging the laser generator in frontward and rearward directions as defined by a laser beam emitting direction.

67. (previously presented) The cutter as claimed in claim 63, wherein the laser generator support member has a first side wall and a second side wall extending in a vertical direction, and further comprising a first stop member provided to the first side wall and movable in a horizontal direction and a second stop member provided to the second side wall and movable in a horizontal direction for regulating a horizontal movement of the laser generator relative to the laser generator support member.

68. (currently amended) The cutter as claimed in claim ~~61~~ 62, wherein the holder is further pivotable in a second manner with respect to the base portion, so that an angle made by the circular saw blade and the base portion is changed when the holder is pivoted in the second manner with respect to the base portion.

69. (currently amended) The cutter as claimed in claim ~~61~~ 62, wherein the holder comprises:

a slide shaft support portion;

at least one slide shaft extending through the slide shaft support portion and slidably movable in a frontward and a rearward direction with respect to the slide shaft support portion, the at least one slide shaft having a front end; and

a hinge holder fixed to the front end of the at least one slide shaft, the hinge holder having a front side, wherein the cutter blade portion is supported on the hinge holder.

70. (Canceled)

71. (currently amended) A The cutter as claimed in claim 70, comprising

a base portion for supporting a workpiece;

a holder supported on the base portion;

a cutter blade portion adapted for supporting a circular saw blade that cuts the workpiece, the cutter blade portion being supported on the holder so as to be pivotally movable between an upper position and a lower position, the cutter blade portion being closer to the base portion in the lower position than in the upper position, the circular saw blade having a rotation axis and a blade edge in a circumferential direction of the circular saw blade, the blade edge having a width in a direction of the rotation axis, and

a laser generator for emitting laser light, the laser generator being attached to the holder to direct at least a portion of the laser light onto a position to be cut on the workpiece, the laser generator being configured and arranged so that an entire width of the laser light is locatable within a space defined by a locus of the width of the blade edge as the cutter blade portion moves from the upper position to the lower position, and

wherein said laser light travels in a direction that crosses with a longitudinal direction of the rotation axis of the blade.

72. (currently amended) The cutter as claimed in claim ~~70~~ 71, wherein the laser generator comprises:

a light emitting portion that irradiates the laser light onto the position to be cut on the workpiece;

a laser generator support member supporting therein the laser generator slidable in a horizontal direction; and

means for moving the light emitting portion of the laser generator in the horizontal direction.

73. (previously presented) The cutter as claimed in claim 72, wherein the laser generator has a first side and a second side opposite the first side, and the moving means comprises:

a screw member screwingly fitted in the laser generator support member with a tip of the of the screw member abutting against the first side of the laser generator, and

a resilient member interposed between the laser generator support member and the second side of the laser generator for urging the laser generator toward the screw member.

74. (previously presented) The cutter as claimed in claim 72, further comprising a resilient body for urging the laser generator in a vertical direction.

75. (previously presented) The cutter as claimed in claim 72, further comprising a resilient body for urging the laser generator in frontward and rearward directions as defined by a laser beam emitting direction.

76. (previously presented) The cutter as claimed in claim 72, wherein the laser generator support member has a first side wall and a second side wall extending in a vertical direction, and further comprising a first stop member provided to the first side wall and movable in a horizontal direction and a second stop member provided to the second side wall and movable in a horizontal direction for regulating a horizontal movement of the laser generator relative to the laser generator support member.

77. (currently amended) The cutter as claimed in claim ~~70~~ 71, wherein the holder is further pivotable in a second manner with respect to the base portion, so that an angle made by the circular saw blade and the base portion is changed when the holder is pivoted in the second manner with respect to the base portion.

78. (currently amended) The cutter as claimed in claim ~~70~~ 71, wherein the holder comprises:

- a slide shaft support portion;

- at least one slide shaft extending through the slide shaft support portion and slidably movable in a frontward and a rearward direction with respect to the slide shaft support portion, the at least one slide shaft having a front end; and

- a hinge holder fixed to the front end of the at least one slide shaft, the hinge holder having a front side, wherein the cutter blade portion is supported on the hinge holder.